

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 29, 31-43, and 47-50 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough (or double brackets) and added material is underlined. In addition, please add claims 51-64 and cancel claims 1-28 and 46. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~wrist-worn timepiece~~ configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer,
the timepiece comprising:

a case that defines a recess;

a timing element positioned within the recess; and

a band extending from at ~~least~~ least one side of the case, the band having ~~a plurality of links, each link including a cover member, an extension element, a first springbar extending through a first channel in the extension element to secure the extension element to the cover member, and a second springbar extending through a second channel in the extension element to join the extension element to an adjacent link,~~
a first link and an adjacent second link that is joined with the first link, the first link including:

a first extension element defining a connecting channel and a joining channel, the connecting channel being parallel to the joining channel, and each of the connecting channel and the joining channel extending entirely through the first extension element,

a first cover member separate from the first extension element and extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the connecting channel, the first cover member being positioned to be opposite the wrist relative to the first extension element,

a connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and

a joining springbar extending through the joining channel to join the first link to the second link.

wherein the second link is substantially identical to the first link and has a second extension element and a second cover member, the second cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the joining channel, the joining springbar securing the first extension element to the second cover member to join the first link to the second link, and the first extension element being unsecured to the second extension element.

30. (Original) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material.

31. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 30, wherein the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

32. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 31, the ~~first~~ connecting springbar extends through a connector area of the case and joins the band to the case, and the ~~first~~ connecting springbar includes a pair of end portions that extend through apertures in the first cover member to secure the first cover member to the case.

33. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 30, wherein ~~a pair of the~~ first cover member ~~and another cover member~~ extend over at least a portion of the crystal.

34. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 30, wherein ~~a pair of the~~ first cover member ~~and another cover member~~ extend over opposite sides of the crystal, the timing element being visible between ~~the pair of the~~ first cover member ~~and the another cover member~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first cover member includes a ~~first~~ pair of apertures that receive end portions of the ~~first~~ connecting springbar to secure the first extension element to the first cover member.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~band~~ timepiece recited in claim 35, wherein the first cover member has a primary surface and a pair of sidewalls extending outward from the primary surface, and each sidewall defines one of the pair of apertures.

37. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first cover member is configured to join with an adjacent extension element that is separate from the first extension element.

38. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 37, wherein the first cover member includes apertures that receive end portions of an adjacent springbar to join the adjacent extension element to the first cover member.

39. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first cover member is formed of a metal material.

40. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first extension element is formed of a flexible polymer material.

41. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first extension element is formed of urethane.

42. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the first connecting springbar and the ~~second~~ joining springbar each include a tubular member and a pair of depressible end portions.

43. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 29, wherein the band includes a plurality of links that are substantially identical to the first link and the second link, and a first portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a first band portion, and a second portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a second band portion.

44. (Original) The timepiece recited in claim 43, wherein the first band portion and the second band portion each include an end that is configured to join with the case.

45. (Original) The timepiece recited in claim 43, wherein a clasp joins an end of the first band portion with an end of the second band portion.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A wrist-worn timepiece comprising:

a case that defines a recess;

a timing element positioned within the recess;

a crystal extending over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material; and

a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band having a plurality of links joined by springbars, the band including a cover member extending with a configuration of a plate that extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

48. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 47, wherein ~~one of the springbars a~~ connector extends through a connector area of the case and joins the band to the case, and the ~~one of the springbars~~ connector includes a pair of end portions that extend through apertures in the cover member to secure the cover member to the case.

49. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 47, wherein ~~a pair of~~ the cover member and another cover member extend over the crystal.

50. (Currently Amended) The timepiece recited in claim 47, wherein ~~a pair of~~ the cover member and another cover member extend over opposite sides of the crystal, a time display of the timing element being entirely visible between the ~~pair of~~ the cover member and the another cover member.

51. (New) A wrist-worn timepiece comprising:

a case that defines a recess;

a timing element positioned within the recess, the timing element having a visible time display;

- a crystal extending over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material; and
- a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band having a pair of cover members that extend over edges of the crystal to define a space between the pair of the cover members, an entirety of the time display being visible through the space.

52. (New) A timepiece configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer, the timepiece having a case, a timing element positioned within the case, and a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band comprising a first link, a second link, and a third link:

the first link including:

- a first extension element defining a first connecting channel and a first joining channel, the first connecting channel being parallel to the first joining channel,
- a first cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first connecting channel, the first cover member being positioned opposite the wrist relative to the first extension element, and each of the first connecting channel and the first joining channel extending entirely through the first extension element,
- a first connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and
- a first joining springbar extending through the first joining channel to join the first extension element to the second link;

the second link including:

- a second extension element defining a second connecting channel and a second joining channel, the second connecting channel being parallel to the second joining channel, the second extension element being separate from the first extension element, and each of the second connecting channel and the second joining channel extending entirely through the second extension element,
- a second cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second connecting channel, the second cover member being positioned opposite the wrist relative to the second extension element, and the

second cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first joining channel, the first joining springbar joining the first extension element to the second cover member,

a second connecting springbar extending through the second connecting channel to connect the second extension element to the second cover member, and

a second joining springbar extending through the second joining channel to join the second extension element to the third link,

wherein the first extension element is secured to each of the first cover member and the second cover member, and the first extension element is positioned adjacent to the second extension element and is unsecured to the second extension element.

53. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 52, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material, and the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

54. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 52, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material, and the first cover member extends over a first side of the crystal, and a third cover member extends over a second side of the crystal, the second side of the crystal being opposite the first side of the crystal.

55. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 52, wherein the first cover member includes a pair of apertures that receive end portions of the first connecting springbar to secure the first extension element to the first cover member.

56. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 55, wherein the first cover member has a primary surface and a pair of sidewalls extending outward from the primary surface, and each sidewall defines one of the pair of apertures.

57. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 52, wherein the first cover member and the second cover member are formed of a metal material.

58. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 57, wherein the first extension element and the second extension element are formed of a polymer material.

59. (New) A timepiece configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer, the timepiece having a case, a timing element positioned within the case, and a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band comprising a first link, a second link, and a third link:

the first link including:

- a first extension element defining a first connecting channel and a first joining channel, the first connecting channel being parallel to the first joining channel, and each of the first connecting channel and the first joining channel extending entirely through the first extension element,
- a first cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first connecting channel, the first cover member being positioned opposite the wrist relative to the first extension element,
- a first connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and
- a first joining springbar extending through the first joining channel to join the first extension element to the second link;

the second link including:

- a second extension element defining a second connecting channel and a second joining channel, the second connecting channel being parallel to the second joining channel, and each of the second connecting channel and the second joining channel extending entirely through the second extension element,
- a second cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second connecting channel, the second cover member being positioned opposite the wrist relative to the second extension element, and the second cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first joining channel, the first joining springbar joining the first extension element to the second cover member, and the second extension element being separate from the first extension element,

a second connecting springbar extending through the second connecting channel to connect the second extension element to the second cover member, and
a second joining springbar extending through the second joining channel to join the second extension element to the third link;

the third link including:

a third extension element defining a third connecting channel and a third joining channel, the third connecting channel being parallel to the third joining channel, and each of the third connecting channel and the third joining channel extending entirely through the third extension element,
a third cover member extending over a portion of the third extension element that has the third connecting channel, the third cover member being positioned opposite the wrist relative to the third extension element, and the third cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second joining channel, the second joining springbar joining the second extension element to the third cover member, and the third extension element being separate from the second extension element,
a third connecting springbar extending through the third connecting channel to connect the third extension element to the third cover member, and
a third joining springbar extending through the third joining channel to join the second extension element to another link,

wherein the first extension element is positioned adjacent to the second extension element and is unsecured to the second extension element by either the first connecting springbar and the first joining springbar, and the second extension element is positioned adjacent to the third extension element and is unsecured to the third extension element by either the second connecting springbar and the second joining springbar.

60. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 59, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material, and the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

61. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 59, wherein the first cover member includes a pair of apertures that receive end portions of the first connecting springbar to secure the first extension element to the first cover member.
62. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 61, wherein the first cover member has a primary surface and a pair of sidewalls extending outward from the primary surface, and each sidewall defines one of the pair of apertures.
63. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 59, wherein the first extension element, the second extension element, and the third extension element are formed of a polymer material.
64. (New) The timepiece recited in claim 63, wherein the first cover member, the second cover member, and the third cover member are formed of a metal material.